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week ending Jan. 17, 1885, was:

Total for the week .....

### How Can Democrats Support the Blair Bill

To usit seems incredible that the BLAIR scheme for saddling the national Treasury with the cost of education in the several States should be sanctioned by votes of Democratic Senators and Representatives or by the approval of a Democratic President. Not only would it involve a flagrant breach of the Constitution and a fatal acquiescence in the emasculating tutelage of a paternal Government, but, regarded merely from the point of view of expediency, the proposed method of apportioning the public moneys is radically vicious, for, far from stimulating communities to help themselves, it would actually set a premium upon State torpor and local neglect of duty.

It should be plain as a pikestaff that if our organic laws can ever be so construed as to permit the shifting of a school tax from a State to the Federal Treasury, there would be no legal bar to the foisting of a road tax, a poor tax, a tax for the support of courts, police, and prisons, or, in short, all local burdens, upon the same broad shoulders of the central Government. Of course the State and county administrations, being thus deprived of any pretext for existence, would sink into contempt and impotence, and before long be suppressed. No State with a trace of pride in its past or of hope in its future, no State which deserves to keep a shadow of independence, will accept, under the smooth guise of national contributions to its school fund, a deadly solvent of its dignity and energy, under whose relaxing influence all its powers of self-improvement and all its cherished local Institutions would perish of dry rot. Thus far we have looked at Senator BLAIR's

specious proposition from the standpoint of the Constitution, which should henceforth be instinctively upheld with special fervor by the Southern States, who have much more to dread than their stronger Northern brethren from plausible encroachments of centralizing theories. But from the point of view of Northern States the principle of distribution propounded in the BLAIR bill is palpably absurd. Instead of encouraging the citizens of each State to educate themselves, by apportioning their share of the Federal subsidy to the vigor of the effort made upon their own behalf, it positively graduates the amount of national assistance to the degree of illiteracy which a given community has seen fit in the past, or may hereafter see fit, to tolerate. In other words, the less the taxpayers of Delaware, for instance, may deem it worth while to pay for the support of their own schools, the more the taxpayers of New York shall be forced to contribute for the relief of Delaware. This would be reversing with a ince the measure proverbially meter out to the idle and the industrious apprentice. Under the debasing operation of such methods of distribution, how long would it be before the Northern States themselves would be prompted by a mean self-interest to cut down their own appropriations for education in order to obtain a slice of the Foderal gratuities fairly proportionate to their large share of the burdens imposed by Federal taxation?

The Democratic party would cease to exist If its leaders were to sanction such a principle as that advanced in the BLAIR bill. If that principle were once embodied in legislation, it would be a waste of words to quote the Constitution; and the whole traditional machinery of State and county administration would be gradually discarded as obstructive and superfluous. The capacity of local initiative and selfdevelopment would decay, and a system of paternal government would come impregnably established in this country, pervading all its laws, and rooted in the relaxed, irresolute, dependent temper of its people. In its logical outcome, paternal government has but two forms-Cosariam and Communism-and toward one or the other every nation that foregoes the hubit of local self-help and self-improvement must inevitably drift.

# The Treatment of Convicts.

An interesting report has been made to the Prison Association by a special committee who last year visited England to personally inspect the workings of the prison system which has been in operation there, to greater or less extent, for a generation past. The result of the visit, they say, impressed them deeply with the necessity of a reform in our prison management, corresponding to that which has been wrought in Great Britain since 1842, when the present discipline was first attempted at Pentonville.

The general features of the English penal system are the gradual disuse of short terms of imprisonment, and the substitution of other forms of punishment; solltary confinement during a probationary period, and the classification of convicts according to their good conduct and industry.

The short terms are opposed because the period of confinement is not long enough to be of disciplinary and reformatory benefit to the prisoners. Besides, if, as here, the convicts in the jails for short terms associate together, they all go out worse than they were when they came in. In England there is no such corrupting intercourse, and the time of the imprisoned, so far as possible, is spent in profitable labor, or under educational and moral influences; but the results of experience are against short terms.

All sentences to imprisonment for terms longer than two years have been abolished, except the sentence of five years or more, which subjects the criminal to the discipline of a convict prison. That discipline begins with a probationary period of solitary confinement, during which the prisoner has

merely sufficient food of the coarsest quality and is kept at severe and monotonous labor, such as picking oakum or weaving coarse mats, in his lonely cell, which he leaves only for his hour of exercise, when he may see, but must not address, his fellows. If he behaves himself and works industriously the probationary period ends with nine months but he may indefinitely prolong it by bad conduct or by idleness. As a matter of fact, the great majority of convicts pursue submissively and eagerly the purpose of getting to the end of the hateful period as soon as possible, and, as a consequence, unconscious ly acquire something of a habit of industry. Anyway, they learn that good conduct profits a man, especially in prison. This periodjover, the convict enters the

lowest of three classes of laborers, distinguished by a slight difference in dress, and each higher class enjoying greater privileges. Promotion is secured by industry and good behavior, and the desire for it is naturally great among the prisoners. Fiually, the convict may, by persistence in well-doing, earn a remission of time, which may amount to one-fourth of the whole period. The monotony of prison life is therefore relieved by the eager desire and competition for rewards, and the characters of the prisoners are oftentimes permanently influenced for good under such a system, which is certainly philosophical as well as practical. But we cannot agree with the suggestion of this report that "some form of corporal punishment may advantageously take the clace of many of the sentences for shorter periods still inflicted." The remody here is worse than the disease. Whatever the evils

of short terms, they are not as great as those of flogging, which degrades and outrages the manhood of the criminal, and brutalizes the officer who applies the lash. A return to flogging is a step backward to ward barbarism. Yet only a year or two ago

men and women of respectability in this city were trying to get a bill through the Legisature to authorize the whipping of a certain class of male offenders.

## Information for the Uninformed.

Is it true, as our esteemed contemporary, the Evening Post, affirms, that "no examinations are now held, or have ever been held under any civil service act, which have exacted from any candidate more literature than a plain English education, composed of reading, writing, and arithmetic, unless the duties of his office directly called for

Is it true, as our contemporary asserts, that "all examinations are devoted directly to ascertaining, not the candidate's general cultivation, but his fitness for the particular work of a particular place?"

Is it true that "those who circulate stories or use illustrations contradictory of the foregoing are persons who are deliberately lying for a special purpose, or persons who remain purposely ignorant of what they are talking about in order to ease the strain on their consciences?" These three propositions are advanced by

our esteemed contemporary, in its capacity of principal wet nurse to the examinationpaper system. Any question as to the merits of the system, or any adverse opinion as to the practical value of its workings, seems to excite this amusing newspaper to wrath like that of a sage woman when her sobriety and other personal virtues are aspersed. This is one of the marked symptoms of acute monomania. The Eatonian theory of examination papers, when it once takes full possession of an unfortunate victim, utterly destroys his sense of proportion and ruins his temper. His squirrels are mastodons. People who do not see the little animal in the same large aspect are traitors and fools. People who discuss the so-called civil service reform from any other point of view than his own, are wilful liars or perverse ignoramuses. Such a condition of mind should inspire in reasonable beings no harsher sentiment than pity; and we, therefore, restrain our sense of humor while examining the Evening Post's assertions.

The Post refers us to the papers used during the past ten years in the Post Office and Custom House of this city for evidence that the examinations are invariably devoted to ascertaining the candidate's fitness for the particular work of a particular place, and are not designed to test his general information. We have at hand a few specimens of such papers, and they do not support our contemporary's statement. Candidates for the post of a letter carrier, for example, are asked questions like these:

"Name seven or more Presidents of the United States "Who wrote the Declaration of Independence and in

what city was it issued:
"What was the cause of the war between the United States and Mexico?

"Can a foreign born citizen be elected United States Senator ?
"What three Providents of the United States served as

officers of the U. S. army during the Mexican war "Are Judges of the Supreme Court appointed or elected?" Name a city or large town in each of the following puntries: Spain, Turkey, Germany, France, Belgium.

Who discovered the Hudson River ! "Name three or more large cities in Germany.
"Who is Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy

of the United States ? Who was Vice President during the Administration

It may be said that a candidate of intelligence and a fair amount of general information ought to be able to answer all of these questions. That is not the point. The point is that every one of them is designed to measure the "general cultivation" of the applicant for the post of letter carrier, and not his fitness for the particular work of the particular place. A man might make an admirable letter carrier, prompt, intelligent, wide awake, trustworthy, and rapid on his legs, and yet have vague notions concerning the origin and history of the war with Mexico. It is not one of the functions of the letter carriers to supervise the election of United States Senators, nor the appointment and confirmation of the Justices of the Supreme Court. A carrier might travel for forty years between the Battery and Harlem without once being called upon to deliver a letter to the Vice-President of the United States under the Adminis tration of JAMES K. POLK. Does not the Evening Post think that the questions which

cation composed of reading, writing, and arithmetic?" The papers submitted to candidates for elerkships in the Post Office, strangely mough, contain questions less difficult, as a rule, than those for the letter carriers. Why, for instance, should a letter carrier be required to name all the thirteen original States of the Union, while a clerk is let off with three? Why should special knowledge concorning the Mexican war be exacted in the case of the carrier, while the clerk is passed upon merely mentioning the names of two Why should the carrier be examined in the geography of Spain, Turkey, Germany, France, and Belgium, while the clerk in the office need only "name two Eastern, two Middle, two Southern, and two Western States" of this Federal Union? We con less we cannot tell. Probably even the Evening Post cannot tell.

we have printed require of the candidate

'more literature than a plain English edu-

Here are some of the questions addressed to the candidates for clerkships in the New York Post Office. Like the cerriers list above,

they show that the Evening Post has misrepresented the intent of the examinations:

"What American General was killed at Bunker Hill?" What was the last battle of the seven days' conflic

in 1802 ?
"Who commanded the Union forces at Chanceller

"Who were the two most successful explorers of A The last of these questions is especially edifying. What connection, direct or remote has it with the fitness of the applicant to de desk work in the New York Post Office i How many people, not candidates for office under the reformed civil service, can answer it? What is the measure of success in the exploration of Africa? It is a fool question

We have not space for many more exam ples illustrating the inaccuracy of the Post's petulant assertions. Candidates at a Custom House examination for promotion as in spectors were confronted with a demand for "the date of the act creating the Indepen dent Treasury." They were also required to tell "in what does treason against the United States consist?" At another Custom House examination the candidate was asked for the names of "the principal mountain chains of the world." And, most extraordinary re quirement of all, he was calmly requested to write a dissertation on this theme: "Which is the most (sic) desirable source of national wealth, agriculture or manufacturers?" If the applicant had been required to correct the grammar of the examiners who pro pounded this conundrum, it would have been a different matter; but that was not the pur pose of the interrogatory.

We are very sorry to be forced to the con clusion that our esteemed contemporary, the Evening Post, does not know what it is talking about when it undertakes to discuss the history and philosophy of the wonderful civil service examinations.

## An Episode at a Club Dinner.

The only Magyar member of the next Congress will be the Hon, JOSEPH PULITZER who was elected last fall to represent the Ninth district. Mr. PULITZER is a Democrat and a newcomer in New York. He belongs to a race noted for many strong qualities not the least characteristic of which is en terprising persistency in the pursuit of so cial self-improvement. Mr. PULITZER's career has been interesting, and in some respects remarkable. It is reported by the Philadelphia Times that it is only fifteen year since he was employed as a coachman by a wealthy gentleman of St. Louis. The gentle man in question was Capt. JAMES B. EADS who speaks with great kindness of the intelligence and fidelity of his former servant The fact is much to the credit of the new Congressman.

Upon his arrival in New York severa months ago, Mr. PULITZER devoted himself with considerable zeal to the cultivation of a personal acquaintance among the working politicians of the down-town wards. The Impression made in the Ninth district by the energy of his conversation and the sincerity of his countenance was so marked that Mr PULITZER was promptly nominated for Congress, and at the ensuing election he was chosen by a flattering majority. In the interval between his election and the time when his services will be required at Washington, Mr. PULITZER has leisure for the further extension of his personal acquaintance and of course he is making industrious use of his opportunity.

The other evening the Hon. JOSEPH PULIT-ZER was present by invitation at the dinner given by the Lotes Club to Mr. Grongs AUGUSTUS SALA, a distinguished Englishman now visiting the United States. In re porting the speeches at this dinner our esteemed contemporary, the Tribune, discloses the fact that the Magyar Congress man committed a solecism which in a person of less social experience would have been almost unpardonable. While the Presiden of the club. Mr. WHITELAW REID, was ex pressing to the guest of the evening the good will of the welcome extended to him Mr. REID was twice interrupted by Mr PULITZER, who was neither one of the en tertainers nor the principal guest of the club. Here is the Tribune's report of this curious occurrence:

"We like a man who can change his mind; and if a bit of international frankness may be permitted in the rood fellowship of this board, perhaps I may venture to old that we particularly like to discover that trait in a Englishman. [Applause and laughter | We've change our own minds—at least about some things. We've not only forgiven our countrymen, whom our guest used to sympathize with, but we've rut—and are getting ready

to put-the most of them into office. Mr. Puttrass, interrupting-A great deal better for the country.

"Mr Rxin—We are now considering how much they

are going to forgive us.
"Mr. Pulirans—We have a good deal to forgive. "Mr. Rain, continuing—Seriously, gentlemen, we ar very glad to see Mr. Sala here again," and so forth.

Mr. REID finished his remarks without further interruption, nor did Mr. PULITZER attempt again to interject his comments on the political situation between the periods of any gentleman's speech. It is probable that his unexpected essay in this direction was due less to any lack of personal modesty, or to any deliberately obtrusive purpose, than to an imperfect apprehension of the etiquette of such an occasion. Mr. WHITELAW REIL seems to have taken this view of the matter He waited with dignity and courtesy until Mr. PULITZER had stopped talking, and then proceeded with his own remarks.

Although this was rather a severe rebuke we have no doubt that it will prove useful to Mr. PULITZER. If he is quick to profit by such hints, he can accomplish a good deal in the way of self-improvement in the line o his future duties as a public man. If he were a private individual, his behavior would be nobody's business but his own But the personal demeanor of a member o Congress, the representative of an important constituency, is a matter of general concern, and we therefore venture to make these sug gestlons in the kindest spirit possible.

# Obstacles on the Ocean Highway.

Dangers from hurricanes, lightning broken machinery, and icebergs are well un derstood by ocean travellers; but probably few appreciate the perils of collision with floating wrecks.

The Pilot Chart of the North Atlantic for January contains representations of such of these abandoned hulks as have been lately seen. Directly between the outward and homeward transatiantic steam lanes we observe on this chart the bark Nordenskiöld. Her position was noted Nov. 2, and thirtysix days later she was seen again some scores of miles to the east, having drifted with the Gulf Stream. On the last day but one of November the wreck of the bark Yngve was directly in the northern steam lane. Ten days afterward it had drifted rather rapidly eastward, its course being toward the southern lane. Almost at the easterly junction of these steamship routes, of the southern coast of Ireland, an unknown

wreck, bottom upward, is noted on the chart. Turning toward the American side, still between the steam lanes, we observe the wrecked brigs Eothen and Laureta, not very far from each other, both seen in December with their masts above water, as in the case of the barks Yngve and Nordenskjöld. Much nearer the coast, and between the outgoing and homeward routes, is an unknown capsized craft, observed last month. Just north of the homeward route, near Sable Island, is still another sailing vessel, keel uppermost. Off the coast of Maine is the wreck of the schooner A. O. Gross, seen Dec. 18. Along the coast, between Sandy Hook and Cape May, were noted during December no fewer than four wrecks, with names not given, two being sunk and two floating capsized. Close upon the sailing route from New York to the equator is an unknown wreck, seen Dec. 10, while to study nature honestly and faithfully.

southwest of her is the brig Helen O. Phinney. Off Hatteras, but a little to the south, on Christmas, the wrecked barkentine Ephraim Williams was descried; and south of her, east of the Georgia coast, three days earlier. the brig O. B. Stillman. A wrecked schooner is just off the Bermudas, and a capsized craft further to the eastward. To complete the survey, we find, on Dec. 19, an unknown abandoned bark a little south of the southerly steam lane, while a second, the bark Alabama, which began her rovings near this lane in November, had at latest accounts drifted far to the southeast.

This is the state of these floating hulks as given by the latest monthly pilot chart. But there are, of course, other waterlogged wrecks which mariners did not chance to see during December, or did not report. Hence, to get a full list of probable or possible craft of this sort, we should need to go to the charts of preceding months. Then, in months to come new wrecks will be added, while some old ones after having perhaps drifted by force of winds or ocean currents for months forth and back across the great highways of commorce, will, to the great relief of mariners, be found to have at last sunk.

Among the many idle cruisers of maritime nations unable to find anything very useful to do, could not one or two be employed, from time to time, in getting these dangerous obstacles out of the world's way? A vessel striking on a dark night at full speed a waterlogged and perhaps heavily laden hulk. either motionless or drifting slowly, is sure to be badly injured, if not sent to the bottom.

## The Attractions of Monasticism.

It was said by one of our esteemed neighbors, in discussing the case of Mr. Hunting-TON, the Episcopal monk, that the young man's example was not likely to be followed to any extent which would justify the alarm of Bishop Potter's critics as to the growth of monasticism in the Episcopal Church.

We do not know about that. The desire and even the longing to withdraw from the sordid competitions of the world are felt by not a few men, and especially young men of education and refinement like Mr. HUNTING-TON. They are tired of the Darwinian struggle, and the inequalities and sorrows of society torment their consciences and cause infinite pain to their fine organizations,

The picture of a life apart from all this, life without earthly ambitions, is one which is very attractive to many such natures. They are fascinated by the conception of an existence in which there shall be no thought for the morrow, when each day shall-have its appointed duties to be obediently per formed, and the supreme object of all shall be not selfish gain, but the glory of GoD and the good of their fellow men.

The richer the world grows and the mor intoxicating its pleasures, the surer we are to see increase the number of those who are wearled with the whole show, and utterly discontented with all that mere material wealth can give or gain. Even if nothing else, the desire for novelty may impel them to demand a relief from this luxurious monotony, if, indeed, the luxury itself is not a novelty, as it usually is in our land.

Even the dude in his original characteris ties was a respectable being, because to some extent he expressed, or assumed to express this discontent and this weariness. Nothing interested him, nothing surprised him, he expected nothing, and he wanted nothing, only to be let alone. A wedding and a funera were all the same to him; his countenance never changed. Everything is vanity was what the face of this solemn mute expressed. But there are serious characters who are

not satisfied to thus deal with life as a comedy; and yet they look on what passes around them in society and in business as either vanity or brutal greed. They want neither, and they will have neither, and de mand to be suffered to go apart to live out their own lives.

The example of young Huntington will appeal to many such men, who may not all or generally follow it in practice, but who will all give him their respect and admiration. Nor will there be lacking those who will be fascinated by the thought of the life to which he has devoted himself, and who

will long to enjoy its peace themselves. Among the Paulist Fathers of the Roman Catholic Church are several young men of the highest education who have abandoned Protestantism partly because it offered them no such refuge as that they have in the order where they have found repose and contentment. The truth is, monasticism has lived through so many centuries, and now makes its appearance in the Episcopal Church, because it expresses and meets want of human nature—a want which has led to the making of many socialistic and comnunistic experiments outside of the Church

# He Would Go West.

A young man in Indiana asks us the following questions:

"I desire to go West. Having obtained a common school education, I wish to go to some prospering new country where I can get work on a farm or manual labo at good wages in summer, and teach school in winter where land is chesp, for my desire is to get a farm

"I would be glad to have your opinion on the above oposition, and the best locality for such a person.

I would also like to have your advice on another sub ject of less importance, but one that I am interested in I have drawn a few landscape scenes with pencil which have been pronounced by others (not myself) pretty clever, all things considered. If you can give me some advice on this subject, I would be very thankful to you I would like to practise a little this winter, so that when I go West I can make pleasure for those at home by a ketch occasionally.

We can give our correspondent only very general advice as to going West, for there is no particular place in which it would be safe for us to recommend him to settle. Kansas is a splendid farming State, but already the price of good land there is pretty high, especially if it lies near to a railroad. Along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad there are many growing towns in which a young man might work his way to prosperity. Even as far west as Oregon perhaps his chances would be best. Though that State is in so northerly a latitude, its climate is remarkably agreeable and healthful, and its citizens are distinguished for their handsome physical proportions.

In California, too, there are great opportunities before the farmer, but we should hardly advise a young man without capital to undertake to compete with the many rich agriculturists of that State, who conduct farming on a vast scale and put into it an enormous capital. Texas is the most progressive Southern State, and draws more immigrants than any other, but probably an Indiana youth would be better adapted to farming at the North.

A ye sag and unmarried man who is strong flaws from society, the clubs, Wall street, and willing to work will doubtless be able to and the National Guard. It is published as

earn his living in any part of the country but perhaps he is as well off in Indiana as he can hope to be elsewhere. Moreover, these are not good times in which to start out after fortune, for the demand for labor is much less than usual, and the farmers, more especially, are in far from good spirits. If, therefore, our correspondent has even moderately paid work at home, we advise him to defer for the present his journey westward. As to his drawing, we can only advise him

## Frauds in Gold Frames.

So far during the present winter an ignorant and confiding public has absorbed more fraudulent rubbish in the shape of pictures than in perhaps any previous season. general depression of business and the high tariff upon works of art may have something to do with bringing about this result, but pertain it is that never was more barefaced swindling seen in the picture trade.

Pictures which are only tolerably skilful imitations of the style and subjects of wellknown masters are unblushingly offered under their names, and in places and under conditions which imply some sort of assurance to the purchaser that he is not being cheated The swindle has reached proportions which are almost incredible, and it is time that some organized effort were made to check it.

The victims are mostly the people who are taking their first steps in the acquirement of works of art, who fancy they know something about pictures, but really know nothing, and who fall easy victims to the skill of unprincipled auctioneers. If they would heed a word of advice they would purchase nothing at any of these art auctions without a written and a substantial guarantee furnished by the auctioneer. The fact that it is a private collection that is under the hammer implies only that the new purchasers may be cheated as badly as the first one was. Besides, sales of so-called private collections are almost invariably humbugging affairs, in which the collector's pictures are made a nucleus to give character to forged and fraudulent canvases that are always being held in readiness for such opportunities.

Demand a guarantee, and, if necessary, have some one guarantee the guarantor.

It must not be inferred because Mr. EDWARD KEARNEY has gone over from Tammany Hall to the County Democracy that the former organization is to retire from politics. Mr. KEARNEY was in sympathy with the County Democracy at the Chicago Convention and against his associates in their opposition to Mr. CLEVELAND'S nomination. With the CLEVE-LAND mon in the ascendant, Mr. KEARNEY more properly belongs with the followers of Mr. Hu-BERT O. THOMPSON.

The earthquakes in Spain are renewed, and the sufferings of the unfortunate people of Andalusia have been increased by violent wind storms and the heaviest fall of snow experienced in southern Spain in a quarter of a century. The persistent trembling of the earth in the Spanish peninsula, which has continued with brief interruptions since Christmas, recalls the famous earthquake period in the Ohio and Mississippi valiers about 1812, when for many months the ground shook almost daily. and the people became so accustomed to the motion that strangers visiting them were surprised at their indifference when an earthjunke rattled the dishes. But in Spain the listurbance has been so much more violent that instead of becoming ac-customed to the trembling of the earth the inhabitants are more and more terrified by each successive shock. Since Alhams, the antient stronghold of the Moors, has been overthrown, some anxiety has been felt, in all countries, lest the famous palace of the Alnambra should next be destroyed. But to the stricken Andalusians it probably seems a small thing that ancient structures, however famous or beautiful, should be in danger, in comparison with the destruction of their homes, the death of their friends, and the devastation of

Much liberty both of fancy and expression s permitted to poets, but we submit that in the subjoined extract from the Philadelphia Ledger the bounds of right feeling and accurate taste

are grievously violated:

Hang the crape upon the knob, A written notice on the door, Another angel sone to Gon— Our little derling is no more. Mannon, wipe away that falling tear, And weep no more for me;

With our Naviour away up here, Sitting on my Maker's knes. Kiss my little sister Nawa; Give Rosiz my little doi! to day; Tell her I am up in Heaven— With the angels I wil play. Adieu, its past, the midnight hour. Oh! how awest the angels aing; Opp is looking from the tower, I hear the bells in Heaven ring.

This is the first time within our recollection that we have found the celebrated poet of the Ledger, Mr. OHILDS, A. M., liable to the reproof est respect for his talents, and his characte has seemed to us during these many years as nearly faultless as can fall to the lot of humanity; but in this instance he has certainly lone wrong. We trust that Mr. CHILDS, A. M. will never again give us occasion to rebuke him or such professional misconduct.

It is no disparagement to the high intelled tuni faculties of the Hon, WILLIAM M. EVARTS o say that politics will be in rather a queer state when he gets elected Senator.

The National Committee of the Indepen ients have published their cash account for the Presidential campaign. They received in contributions \$23,836, and they expended for locuments, clerk hire, rent, printing, and other proper purposes \$23.408 leaving in the Trees. arer's hands a balance of \$427 after all was over. It is a good showing, and it is well to have it made. Now let us hear from the Demoerats and the Republicans. How much did their National Committees get, and what did they spend it for? To which of them, if to either, did the Mormons pay their large contribution? It would be worth while to have the balance sheet of each of these great bodies; and people would know more after they had studied their figures than they can hope to know without

seeing them. As for the New York Stalwarts, who really decided the contest, and gave Mr. CLEVELAND his election, they were such a model lot of politisians that they had no cash account, no contrioutlons, and no expenses; and yet without them the whole contest would have come to a very different conclusion.

The character and station of that justly famous animal our office cat are seriously misinderstood by our esteemed contemporary the Tribune when it makes the following absurd proposition:

"Will THE SUN consent to allow its cat to fight an Unknown cat, Marquis of Quenasaners rules, at Madi-son Square Garden, the proceeds to go to the Barriotoi status fund?" Without taking further notice of our contem-

porary's particularly foolish request, we will say in reply to all possible future invitations that our office cat cannot leave the office. He never takes a holiday, and never will so long as the fools keep on producing copy. He is always at the office, and, what is more, no one ever saw him asleep.

Why Not Try the Editors!

From the Culteen.

Now, let us ask, why not send to the Senate Mr. George Jones of the Times, or Whitelaw Reid Prisume, or White or Godkin of the Eccning Post ?

A journal formerly known as the American A journal formerly and the title, and con-queen has had fown Topics added to its title, and con-tains all the entertaining and harmless goods which daws from society, the clubs, Wall street, music, speria, PERSIONS-PERSIONS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 .- The amount paid in the last five years for pensions exceeds \$300,-000,000. A bill is pending in the House, and is likely to pass, increasing the annual amount \$25,000,000. There are also numerous private bills which, in the aggregate, will increase coniderably the gross amount. It is a notable fact that among the supporters of extravagant pensions are professed economizers and tax reformers. Under the laws already in force. and those that Congress has manifested an intention to pass, the Trensury will pay out in five years for pensions between \$400,000,000

Be it understood that no pension law is ever repealed. New ones have been added nearly every year for upward of ten years. The penioning of every soldier who served in the war. taking the muster roll for proof, is a proposal not distant in the future. It will come sconer

than is generally supposed.

Confossedly the frauds are enormous. They nerease with each step in legislation. Without violating the truth, pension legislation might

increase with each step in legislation. Without violating the truth, pension legislation might be passed under the title. To increase frauds in the Treasury, under the guise of giving pensions to ex-soldiers. It is noteworthy that scarcely any new steps to prevent frauds are taken as the pensions are increased. Each new law is an expansion of the opportunities for committing frauds. Millions are paid out annually for disabilities that have no relation to service in the war. It is on the disability idea that pensions are swelled.

There is not wanting the proper sentiment regarding soldiers deserving pensions. But it does not ask for this enormous taxation. Did the money thus paid out go into the pockets of ex-soldiers, the case would be different; but it is an undeniable truth that no small part of it nevor reaches them, and is got out of the Treasury by systematic frauds. The late Commissioner Bentley gave this as his conviction; and it has not been shown to be unfounded.

At the bottom of most of the bills increasing the amounts and scope of censions is the demagogue idea of gaining the favor of ex-soldiers. It is largely the work of demagogues in Congress, some of whom, as the record shows, are famous tax reformers, advocates of economy in public expenditures and honestgovernment. The yeas and nays on the pending bill in the House of Representatives will be interesting from this point of view.

Fresh Washington Goaslp. WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The passage at arms setween Mr. Cox and Secretary Chandler was very in-leresting. Secretary Chandler went down to the Capiol himself the day the Strang resolution was called up and raved and charged around in high dudgeon. There was one mistake in his reply to Mr. Cox. It was said that Cadet Strang could not have been hazed, because only the members of his own class, the fourth, were a Annapolis at the time. But doesn't Mr. Chandler know that the boys who enter in May consider it their privi-lege to haze the boys admitted in September, although at the beginning of the scholastic year they are all put into the same class?

The Hazen-McKeever-Greely-Carlington; affair has kep the War Department in hot water ever since last winter Gen. Hazen, whose demand for a court of inquiry two years ago was shelved, has at last been gratified by deut. Garlington preferring charges against him, whil he has made charges against Garlington and Gen. Mc-Keever, and the whole department is in a turmoli. Secretary Lincoln, a mild, peace-loving man, has indeed a neart bowed down by weight of woe. He won't gratify martial it costs thousands more. It is estimated that the Swaim court will cost every dollar of \$30,000, and goes buzzing about like a bumble bee, and nobody minds im, which distresses him dreadfully.

Larry Jerome is in town, and gave a dinner Wednes-day svening to Col. James Duffy—diamond-back terrapin, canvas-back duck, Kentucky mutton, Lynnhaven Bay cysters, washed down with the best ginger beer to be

From the London Telegraph. PARIS. Jan. 2.—An altercation which has caused a general flutter in the fashionable dovecots of the Paubourg St. Germain, and has, moreover, resulted n a duel with pistols, took place on Wednesday evening at M. Moller's private circus, in the Rue Benouville. Among those invited to attend on that evening was Alfonso de Aldama, a well-known fencer, who, in returning to his place after an entr'acte, was unable to regain it, owing to the crowd. He was accordingly obliged to stand near the ring. Gen. Loizilon, who was behind him, at once complained that he could not see the per-formers. M. de Aldams remarked that he could not move, whereupon the General pushed him roughly against the partition between the spectators and the ring. On M. de Aldama protesting against this extraordinary conduct, Gen. Loizillon seized him by the col-lar of his cost and threw him bodily into the arens, where he was nearly trampled on by the horses. M de Aldama at once sprang up and struck the General in the law. A duel was forthwith arranged between the pa ties. The pistol was chosen, the distance being twen five paces. Neither of the combatants was wounded. The altercation was quite unprecedented at so select a gathering. M. Molier's private circus has been one of the great attractions of Parisian society for the past four years. Its organizer is one of the wealthiest men in Paris, and aspires to do for equitation and athletic exercises what M. Legouve has done for fencing. His c cus is large, well lighted, and siry, being decorated after the manner of a Murcian bull ring. Twice a year or so is invites his friends to witness the performances. On the night of the general rehearsal the spectators com-prise a considerable sprinkling of the demi-monde; but on select evenings, such as that on which the scrimmage occurred between Gen. Lolzillon and M. de Aldai only the best class of people attend. M. Mol ask to perfection, either with or without a suddle. M. Hubert de la Rochefoucauld and M. Wagner are also noted riders and acrobats at this establishment, and go through their boop jumping and exploits on the trapeze

## n a manner which would bring down the house at The Women of Boston.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Two articles in your paper of late data call for a brief state-ment of facts in reply. One, dated Jan. 11, is heated "Woman Suffrage in Boston." The other, dated Jan. 12, is signed by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and headed, "Why ton Women Voted for Men." Both articles, though different in teaor, seem to imply that in the late muni-cipal election in Boston women voters cast their ballots exclusively, or mainly, for men, and that the women were defeated in consequence. This is not true. The woman's ticket bore the names of both the women as candidates, and I do not know of any instance where a woman scratched off of ther name. The other six names no the iteker were of finen, and as to some of these names there were of finen, and as to some of these names there were of them. A number of women we opinion among the women. A number of women were interested in the moreone objected in this, as in for interested in temporance objected in this, as in for interested in temporance objected in this position in this narror. Through a train of circumstances too long to relate, this action was misunderstood by the Democratic party as showing hostility to these men as Democratic party as showing hostility to these men as Democratic party as showing hostility to the men as the more related that the prevention of the new nonlinations.

A large respectable minority of the women voters thought the action of the Nominating Committee unwise, and a minority report was presented expressing their views and especially arguing the renomination of agentlement when the control of the comments and a Catholic, and who man who was both a Democrat and a Catholic, and who service there.

This difference of onlinen certainly led to warm estables.

has served many service there.

This difference of opinion certainly led to warm and animated discussions in the meetings, as will always be the case where earnest people differ in repard to matters on which they feel strongly; but the discussions never ank into personalities, and good temper controlled all. The Democratic party carried the elections, and of course all candidates for School Committee not on their

Every Long. Winded Governor Should Have

From the Boston Herald

Wanted, a law requiring each Governor of a State to keep an office cut (Sox bred), and to give that cat free access to his deak while he is writing his annual ial message. If Crittenden of Missouri or Robi of Maine had kept a cal, they might now be rendered happy by finding in some of the people they meet men who have read their messages.

### The Cat Couldn't Go Amiso From the Lancaster Intelligen.

Some fun has been made in the Philadelphia newspapers of the famous "office cat" of The Sus, which occasionally devours even valuable copy. But it a manifest that what is most needed in some of the indelphia editorial rooms is a cat with a well-sharpened appetite. A blind cat would do; only he must be hungry and have a capacious as well as a strong stomach.

From the Chicago Herald. THE SUN'S office cat is a Thomas cat with a shark's teeth, an ostrich's stomach, and a goat's appetite.

Barnum Can't Get Illm. From the Kastern Arque. It is understood that P. T. Barnum is seeking o buy the office cat of Tax Sun.

A dull headache, coeliveness, low spirits, want of appetite, and all bilious affections are cared by Dr. Jayne's Banative Pills.—Adv.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

The season's gaveties move on from day to day and week to week with dignified regularity. The ball may gain in velocity as it nears the end of its course, but for some inexplicable reason it has not yet moved with the headlong speed which has marked the progress of previous seasons. The reason for this may be atmospheric, and the cold shoulder which Jack Frost persists in turning upon those who have a legitimate right to claim his presence may have had its share in converting the rushing emn march of this year's social events; or perhaps the echoes of distant thunder in financial circles may make even the young and giddy pause; but certain it is that ball follows ball and banquet succeeds banquet with about as little snap and go as attends the unfolding of a

travelling panorama.

The Cotilion Club deserve some credit for striking out with a novelty in decoration at their second meeting, on Monday evening. The sub-stitution of old Gobelin tapestry for the monotonous ferns and smilax which usually serve as a screen to the music balcony produced a novel and artistic effect. It warmed up the old ballroom and gave it a cosey, homelike look, which reacted upon the dancers, and inspired them with a little of the "hop, skip, and jump" of former days. So that, although the attendance was not largerithan at the F. C. D. C. of the previous week, yet those who were there enjoyed themselves, and the dancing was kept up with

spirit until the night had almost ceased to be. But undoubtedly the best Delmonico ball of the season was the second Assembly on Thursday evening. These balls have had from the first a very decided success. The ladies who give thom, having had long experience with entertainments in their own houses, bring the utmost tact and skill to bear upon the arrangements. Invitations are issued as they would be to a private ball, and there is, therefore, no question of swelling the list of subscribers in order to raise the fund necessary for expenses. Young men feel less independent than when they have paid their money, and can claim their right to get its full equivalent in boned turkey and champagne, and everything is well conducted, without the "ancient and onorable" element coming so prominently to the front as it does at the Patriarchs'.

On Thursday evening the glitter of silver and gold on the ladies' dresses lent an additional charm to the ballroom. There were more new gowns than have been seen together in one room since Miss Astor's wedding, and nearly all of them had gold and silver threads running through the tulies and satins. The most conpicuous of these was a Worth creation worn by Miss Turnure. It was of some diaphanous white material, closely sown with silver spangles, which, on the tight-fitting low waist, produced the effect of chain armor. Miss Langdon wore a singular combination of transparent gauze with heavy cashmere embroidered in or flower adorned her neck or hair. Miss Annie embroidery, and Miss Belle Wilson's a delicate yellow, with buttercups scattered over it. By some curious coincidence almost every

ball has its prevailing color. Sometimes it is pink, sometimes a study in black and white, and sometimes neutral tints preponderate. On Thursday evening yellow was in the ascendant. Mrs. William Jay, Mrs. Charles Post, Mrs. Charles Hone, Miss Otis, and several others wore gowns in different shades of gold-some with trimmings of scarlet popples, such as Mrs. Jay wore, and others, as in the case of Miss Otis, with the most delicate embroiders on lace. Mr. Charles Hone led a pretty and original cotillon with several new figures. which were enjoyed by dancers and spectators. as the germans this winter have been marked by an unvarying regularity, not unlike a mill-

tia drill on training days.

In addition to the Delmonico balls, society had a very crowded reception at Mrs. Elbridge Gerry's to enjoy, and a charming dancing party at Mr. Charles Dickey's, who now occupies Mr. Howard Potter's handsome residence in Park avenue. There was no german, and very many young girls enjoyed the omission, as they were free to dance, walk, and amuse themselves relieved of the heavy burden of attracting and socuring a partner.

With the departure of leap year, matrimonial engagements seem to be largely on the increase. Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid gave a dinner of fourteen on Wednesday, in honor of the engagement of Miss Bishop, a relative of Mrs. Rold, to Mr. James L. Harriman. Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills, Miss Baylies, Miss Otis, and Mr. J. D. F. Lanier were among those who were present, in addition to the newly engaged pair. The engagement is also announced of Miss Isabel Ashmore, daughter of Mr. Sidney Ash-more, to Capt. Charles Herbert, formerly of the Grenadier Guards, and younger brother of Mr. Henry Herbert of Muckross Abbey, Killarney, Several other engagements are rumored, and will doubtless be duly made known, wondered at, and forgotten before the coming of Lent.

Dinners have been given during the week by Mrs. William Astor, Mrs. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Mrs. George H. Warren, Mrs. Robert Winthrop, and Mrs. Turqure. Miss Wolfe entertained sixteen young ladies at a very sumptuous luncheon on Thursday. Among them were Miss Etta Strong, Miss Helen Jones, Miss Lina Post, and the Misses Stovens, Beeckman, and Baylies. Miss Barbey was unfortunately prevented from attending by an inopportune attack of measles.

The most crowded and enjoyable afternoon fea of the winter was at Mrs. Frederick Vanderbiit's on Tuesday. Mrs. Paran Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Sackett, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jones. Mrs. Pierson, the Misses Langdon, Miss Tailer, Dr. William Appleton of Boston, Lord Weymouth, and many other distinguished strangers were among the visitors.

Cards are out for the wedding of Miss Emma Leavitt and Mr. W. Fellowes Morgan on the 22d and of Miss Margaret Beeckman and Mr. Campbell Steward at Calvary Church on the 28th. Mrs. Baylies will give a cotillon party on the ovening of the same day. On the 23d. Mrs. Abram S. Hewitt will also give a cotillon, and again throw open to society the doors of her hospitable mansion, which have so long been closed. Mrs. Charles Post has two dancing parties in contemplation, one on Jan. 30 and the other on Feb. 6. Mrs. William Aster will probably give a ball on Feb. 5.

A very interesting entertainment is promised on the 4th of February at Mrs. Whitney's spacious mansion on the corner of Fifth avenue and Fifty-seventh street, which was built and occupied for some years by Mr. Frederic W. Stevens. Plays by the best amnteur talent in the city and a succession of tableaux, in which many of the leading belies will appear, the whole to be directed by Mrs. Burton Harrison and under the patronage of several well-known society ladies, will draw together a select assemblage and pile up the Vs in the fair ticketsellers' pocketbooks.

Mr. Harry Cannon has issued cards for a reception at his studio on the 23d. Music by the Hungarian band and possibly dancing are promised, and as bachelor parties are always he best and the gayest, not a little enjoyment is looked for on this occasion.

The dances, dinners, teas, and breakfasts which are expected to make life worth living during this and the coming week have already been so well advertised that it is not worth while to refer to them. Mrs. Bradley Martin's ball still stands first in popular anticipation and, if not overcrowded, will doubtless realize all that is expected.

From Philadelphia the news comes that soclety there is enthusiastic over the opera under Col. Mapleson's management. The porformance of "Semiramide" by Patti and Scalehi on Friday evening drew together an immense audience, estimated as high as 3,500. Tickets sold during the day at \$10 each, camp chairs were placed in every available space, and hundrage of people were obliged to content themsolves with agly hearing the music from points where the stage was invisible. The newspaper criticisms the next da, were sulogistic of the two prime donne, but gave the rest of the company scant praise